

**STAFF REPORT:**      **Engineering & Public Works Department**



**REPORT TO:**            **Council**  
**MEETING DATE:**      **December 14, 2009**  
**REPORT NO.:**         **EPW.09.120**  
**SUBJECT:**             **Beaver River Bridge Rehabilitation –  
Noise By-Law Exemption**  
**PREPARED BY:**       **Tom Gray, Engineering Design Technologist**

## **A. Recommendation**

THAT Council approves an exemption to the Noise By-Law 2002-09 to permit construction activities to occur on the Beaver River Bridge during periods between 7:00 pm and 7:00 am from December 2009 to February 2010 as outlined in Report EPW.09.120 "Beaver River Bridge Rehabilitation – Noise By-Law Exemption".

## **B. Background**

The Beaver River Bridge Rehabilitation contract was awarded to Looby Builders Ltd. with a start construction date of December 1, 2009. As part of the work, the Contractor will need to raise and lower the bridge several times to permit maintenance work to be undertaken on bearing plates and pads. The construction schedule stipulates that the bridge can only be closed for short durations between 10:00 pm and 4:00 am.

Staff has delegated authority to close the bridge under By-Law 2005-34 for construction activities however the Town's Noise By-Law 2002-09 requires that an exemption to work outside of the hours from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm be approved by Town Council. The jacking operation will require generators to be operated for lighting and electric jacks. Air compressors may also be necessary in addition to normal vehicle activity.

The Contractor is proposing to jack the two abutments at the same time and the centre span as a separate procedure. The abutments require a bridge closure to jack the bridge up and set it on blocking. Once the work on the bearing pads is completed, the bridge will be jacked again to remove the blocking and set the bridge on the new bearing pads. There is a possibility that only one abutment can be completed at a time, which would cause four closures rather than two as planned.

The centre span cannot be blocked and therefore must be completed in one operation. Due to the restrictions on closing the bridge, the Contractor may need to lower the bridge and re-jack it the following night. Due to the complexities of the centre span works, Staff anticipates that a four hour closure may be required. As a worst case scenario, the Beaver River Bridge would be closed 8 times, all between 10:00 pm and 4:00 am for short durations of up to 4 hours each. All appropriate detour signage will be put in place prior to any closures and will be covered when not required.

Since it is difficult to determine the exact date for which a Noise By-Law exemption is required since the work is highly dependent on weather conditions and work progress, Staff recommend that a blanket exemption be provided to waive the restrictions in the Noise By-Law whenever the bridge is closed.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

This by-law amendment furthers the Town's Strategic Goal #2 "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs" and Strategic Goal #6 "Providing a strong well managed municipal government".

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

There will be adverse noise impacts but is necessary to avoid daytime bridge closure activities.

### **E. Budget Impact**

None.

### **F. Attached**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Tom Gray  
Engineering Design Technologist

---

Reg Russwurm  
Director of Engineering & Public Works

For more information, please contact:

Tom Gray  
[tgray@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:tgray@thebluemountains.ca)  
(519) 599-3131 x277